



DEFIANT.

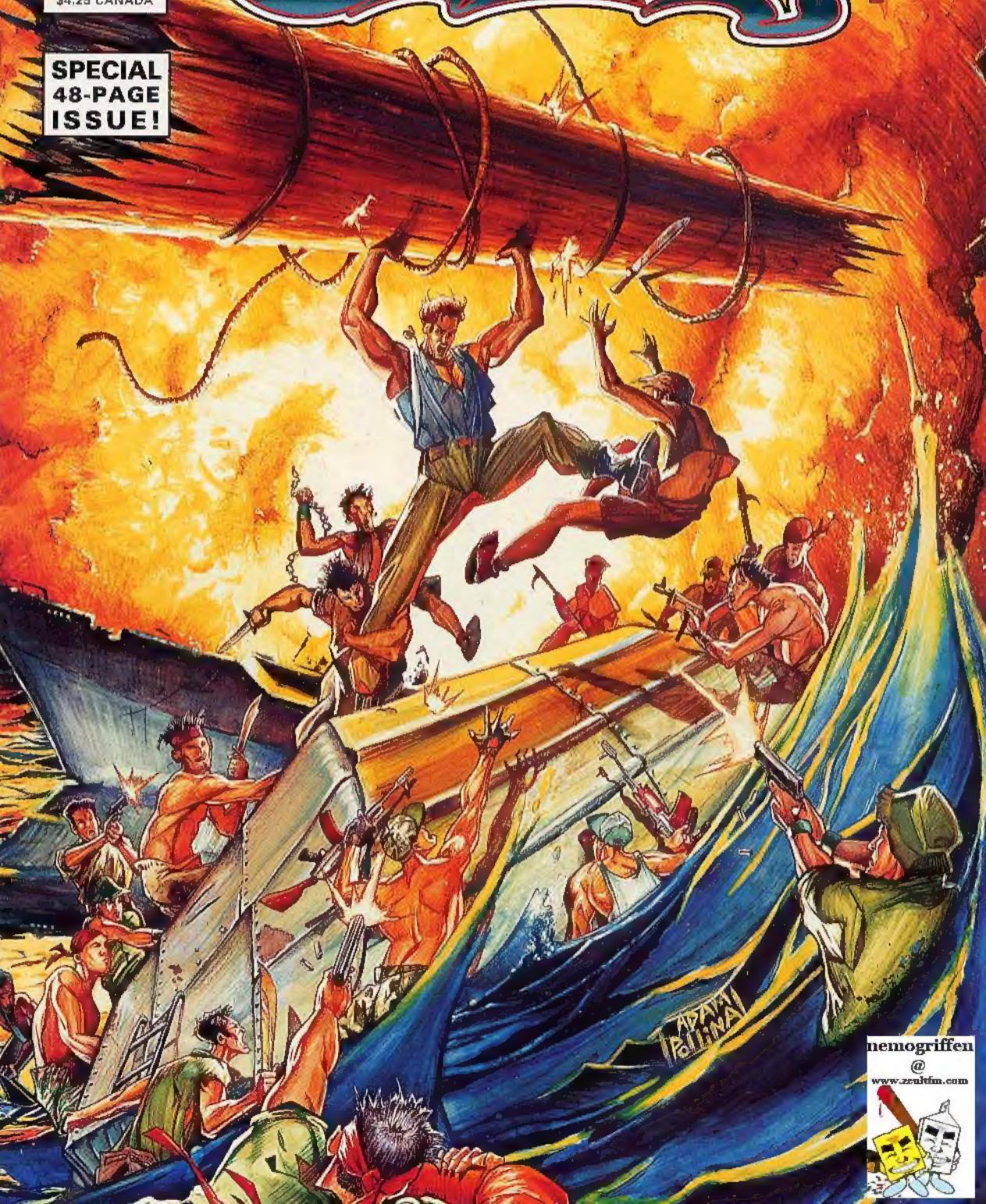
1

\$3.25

\$4.25 CANADA

SPECIAL  
48-PAGE  
ISSUE!

# CHARLEMAGNE



nemogriffen

@

[www.zer0dm.com](http://www.zer0dm.com)



OCTOBER 12, 1973.  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY...

THE STATE MOTTO READS,  
"UNITED WE STAND,  
DIVIDED WE FALL!"

THAT'S A PROVERB 12-YEAR-OLD  
CHARLES SMITH HAS KEPT IN HIS  
HEART FROM THE MOMENT HIS  
BROTHER LEFT FOR VIETNAM...

...AND WAS REPORTED  
MISSING-IN-ACTION.

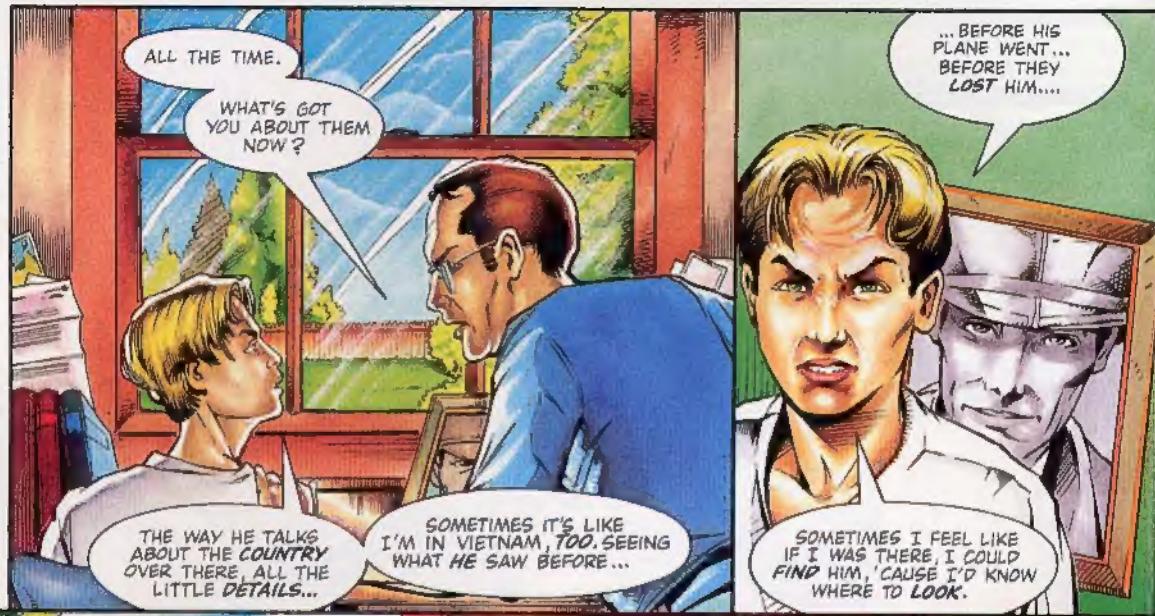
IT'S OKAY TO MISS  
YOUR BROTHER, CHARLIE...  
BUT PETE WOULDN'T WANT  
YOU MISSING OUT ON A  
DAY LIKE TODAY!

WHATTA YOU  
SAY? GET OUT  
THERE WITH THE  
OLD MAN, THROW  
ONE AROUND?

D'YA EVER  
READ HIS LETTERS,  
DAD?

PLOTTED BY JIM SHOOTER,  
PHILIP NUTMAN, ADAM POLLINA,  
DEBORAH PURCELL, AND  
D.G. CHICHESTER  
WRITTEN BY D.G. CHICHESTER  
PENCILED BY ADAM POLLINA  
INKED BY MIKE WITHERBY  
PAINTED BY OCLAIR  
LETTERED BY MINDY EISMAN  
EDITED BY DEBORAH PURCELL  
CREATED BY JIM SHOOTER  
AND DEBORAH PURCELL  
DEVELOPED BY JIM SHOOTER,  
DEBORAH PURCELL, AND  
ADAM POLLINA

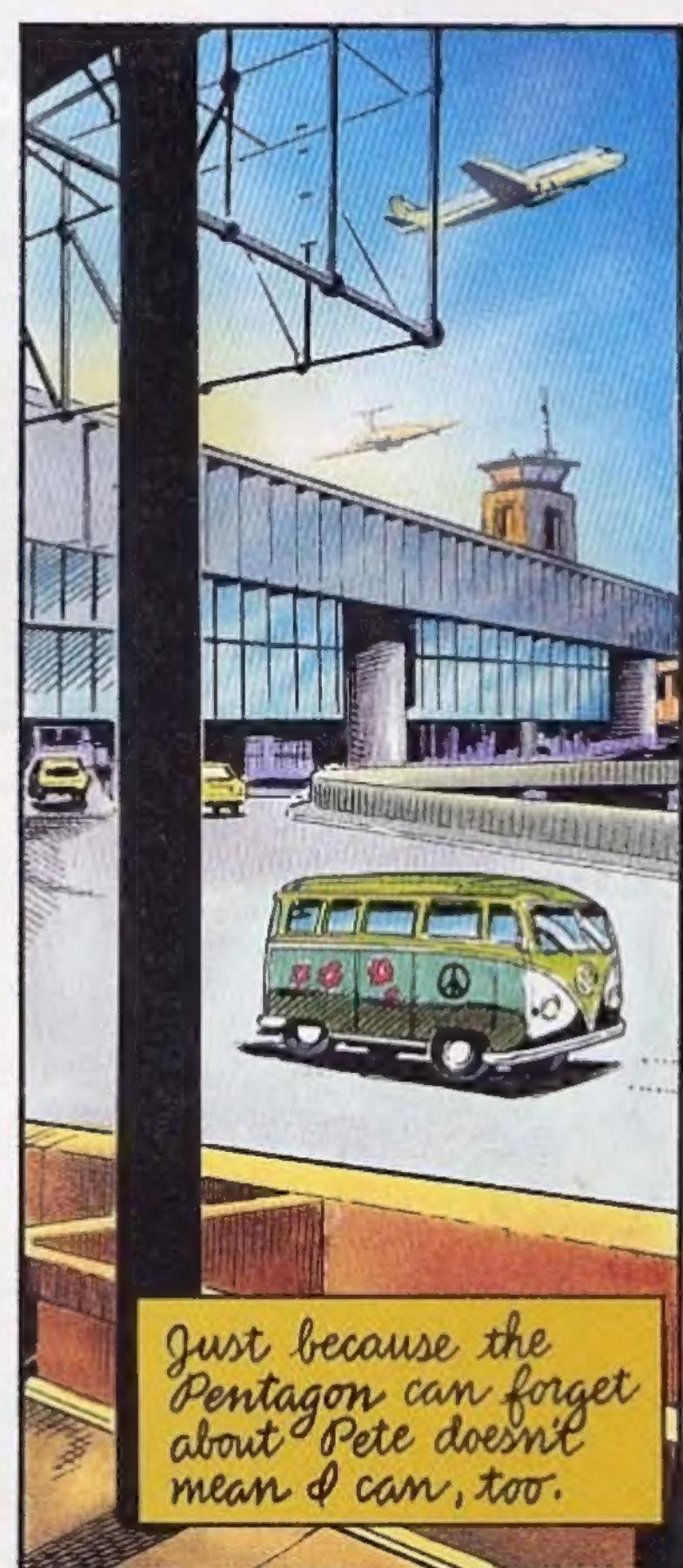
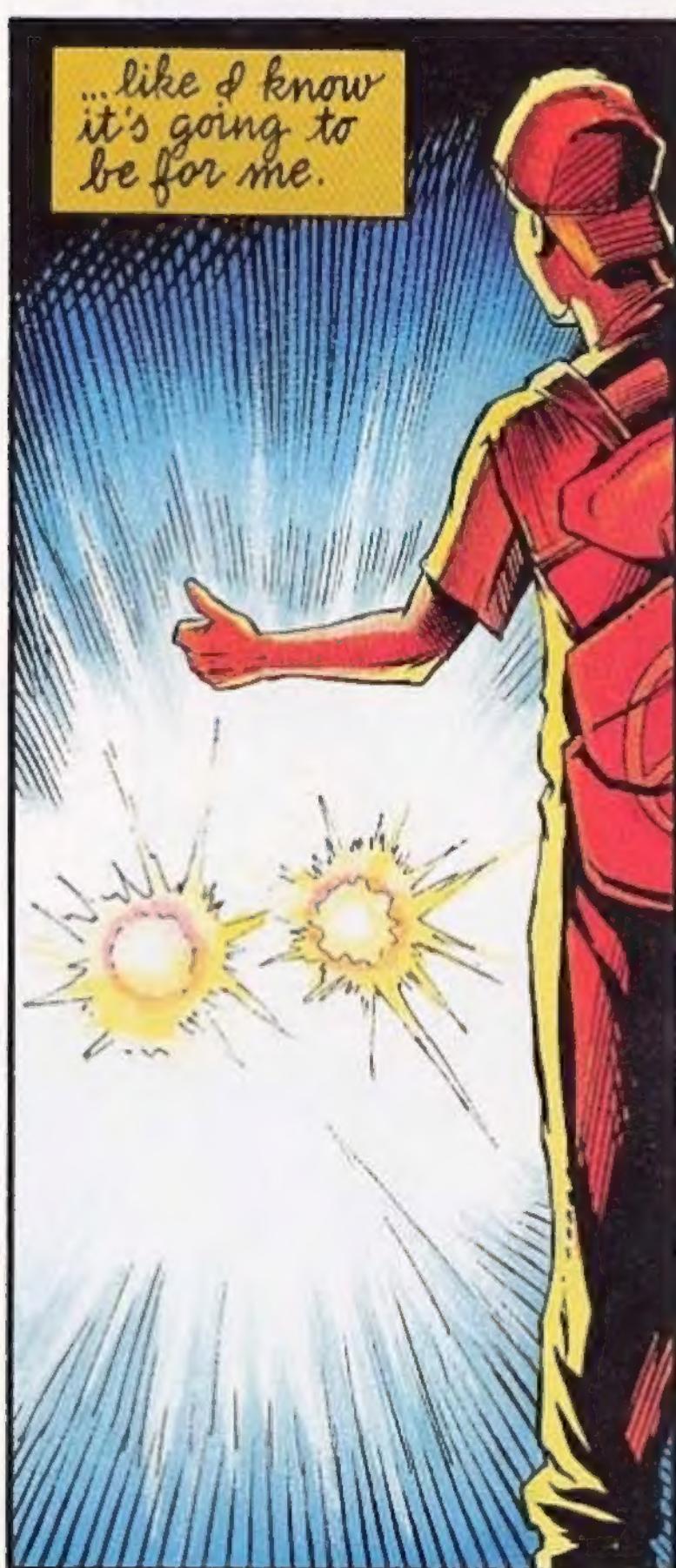
**FIRE WILL COME...**

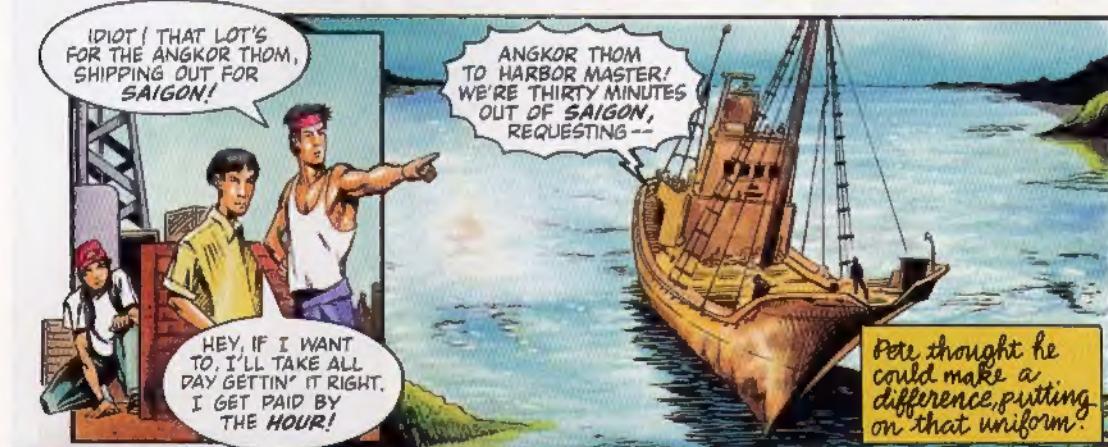
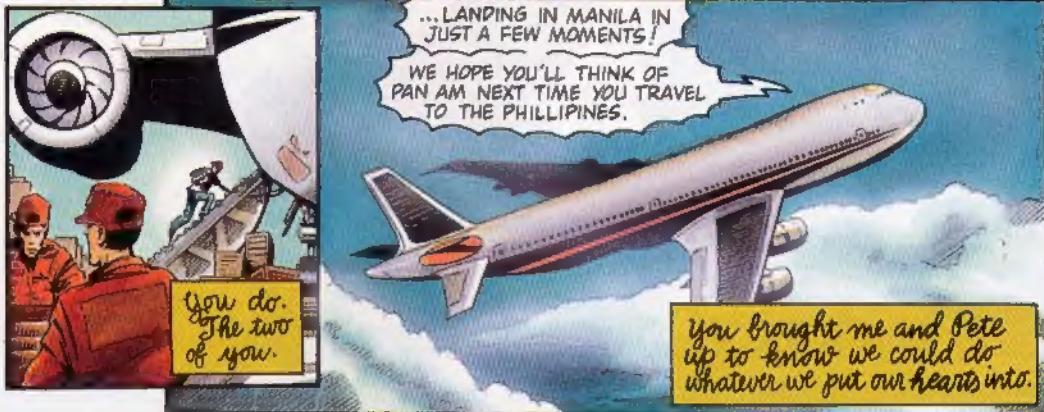


CHARLEMAGNE™ #1, March 1994. Published by DEFIANT™, a division of Enlightened Entertainment Partners, L.P., 232 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Jim Shooter, President; Winston Fowkes, Publisher. Published monthly. Copyright © 1994 EEP, L.P. All rights reserved. Price \$3.25 per copy in the U.S. and \$4.25 in Canada. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any person living or dead or any institution is intended, and any such similarity that may exist is purely coincidental. The trademarks DEFIANT, ENLIGHTENED ENTERTAINMENT, and CHARLEMAGNE and all of the character names and likenesses featured herein are the exclusive property of EEP, L.P. PRINTED IN CANADA.

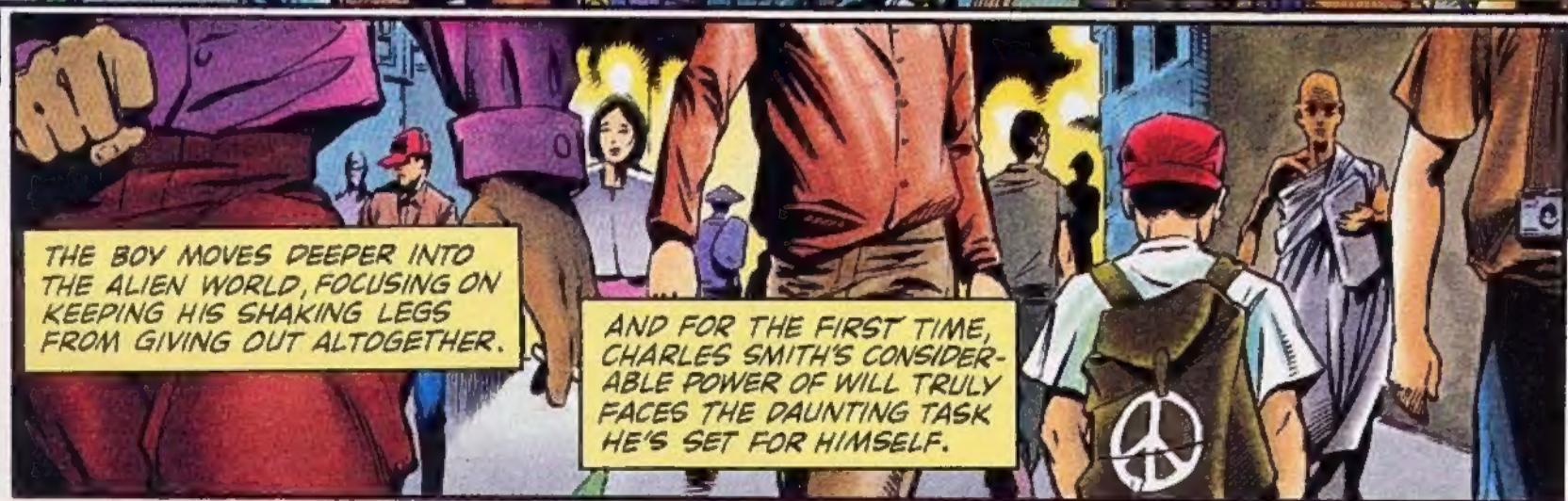


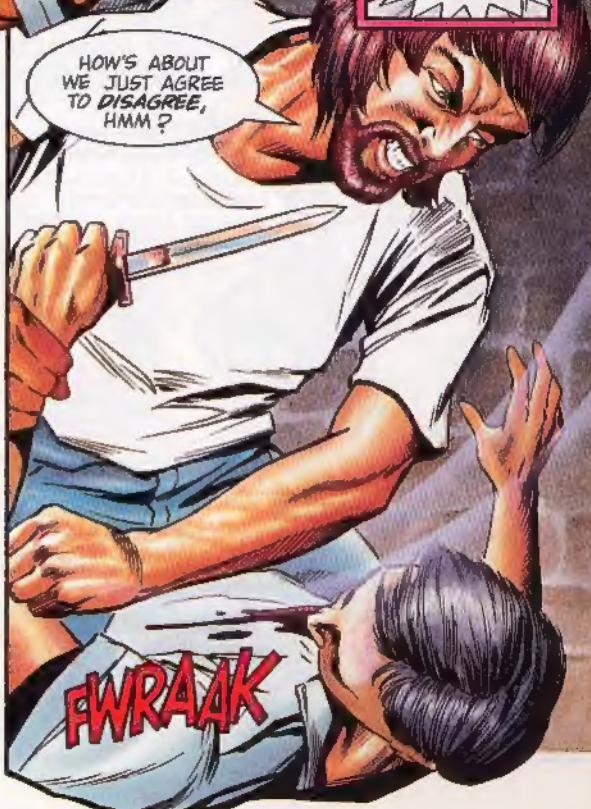
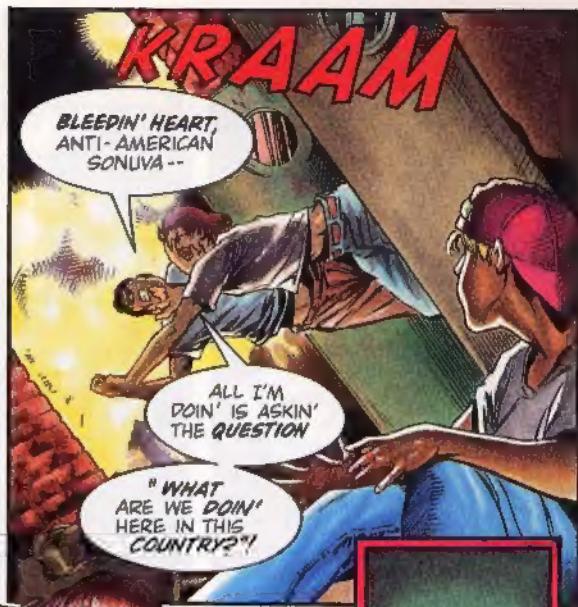


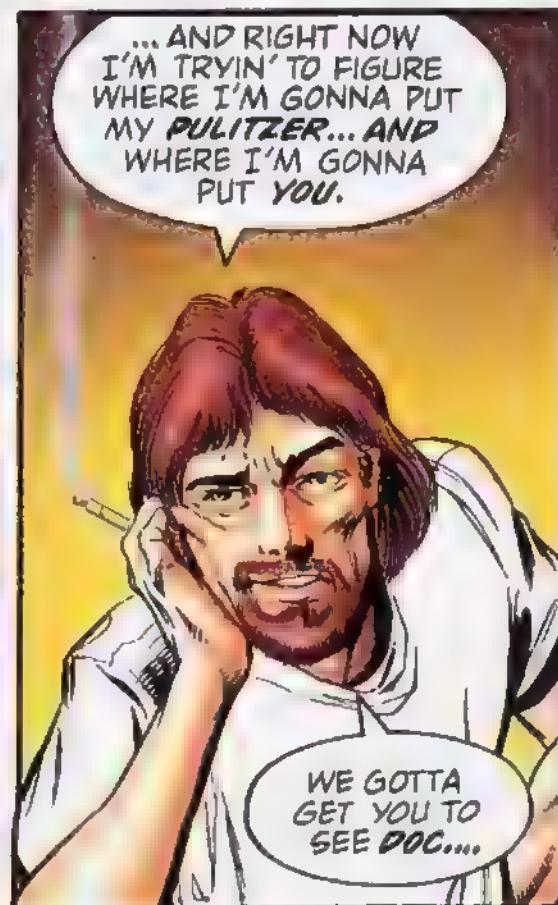
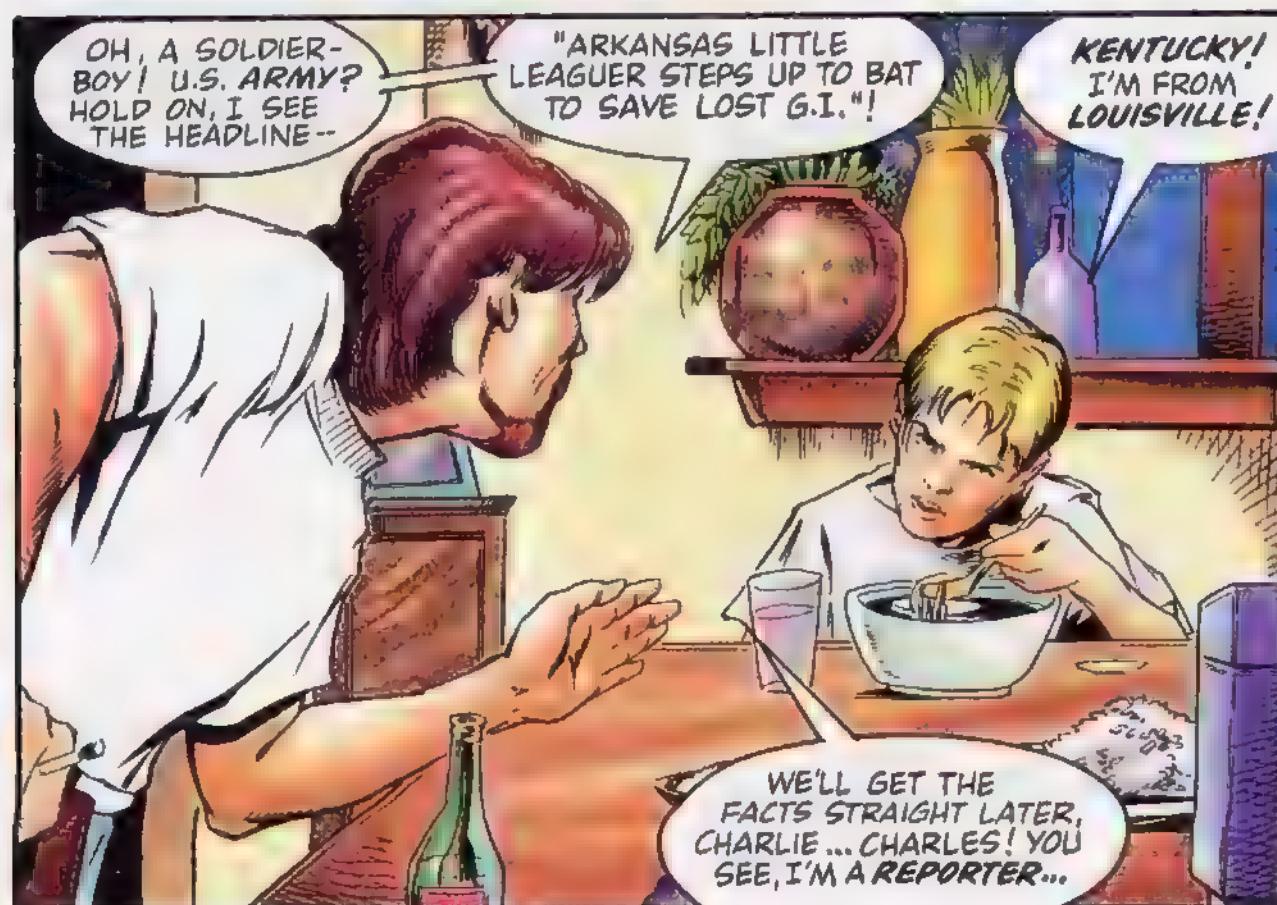
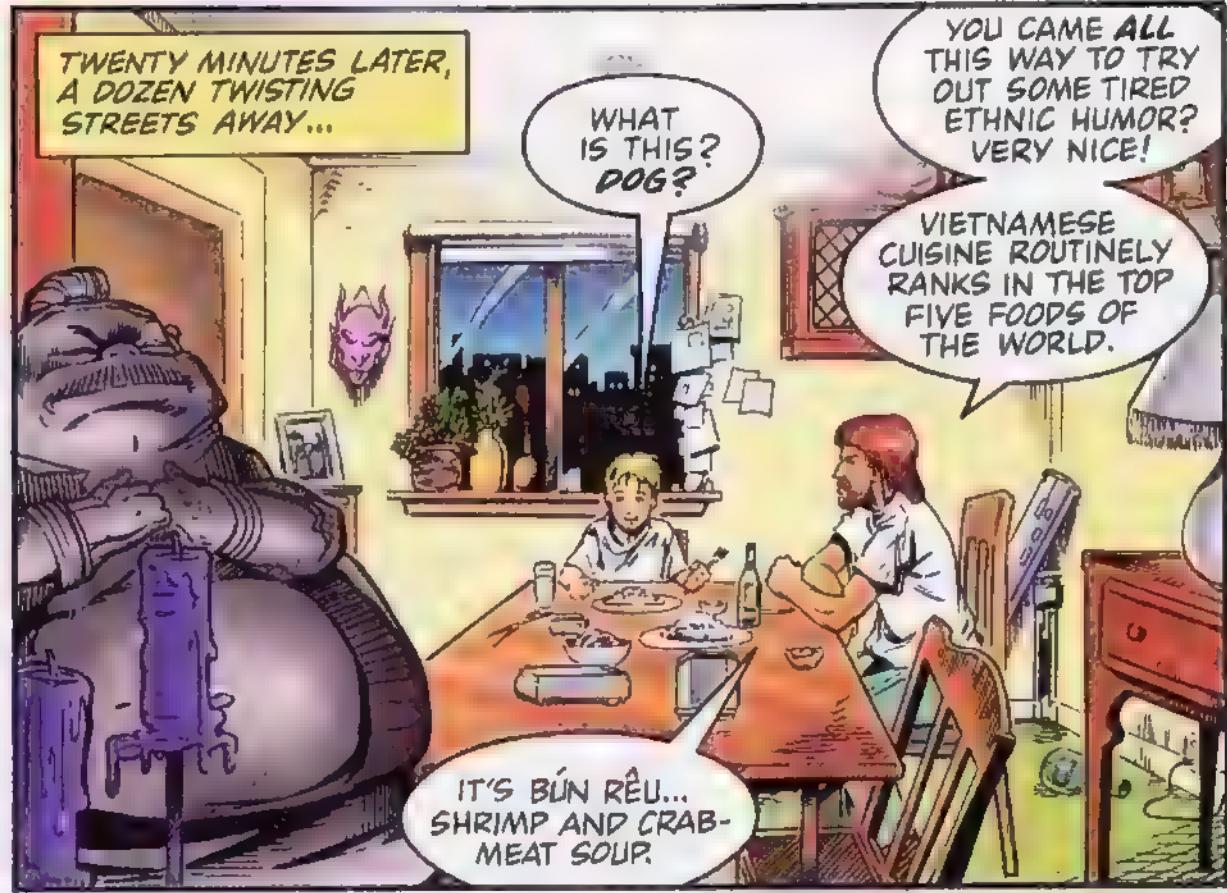


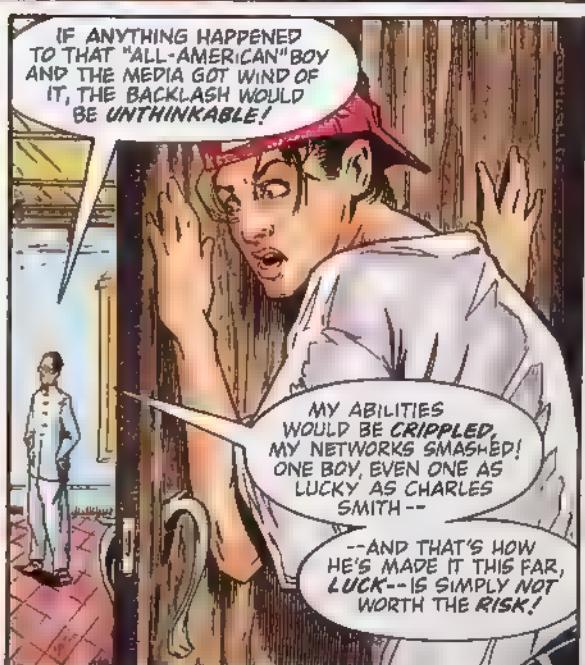
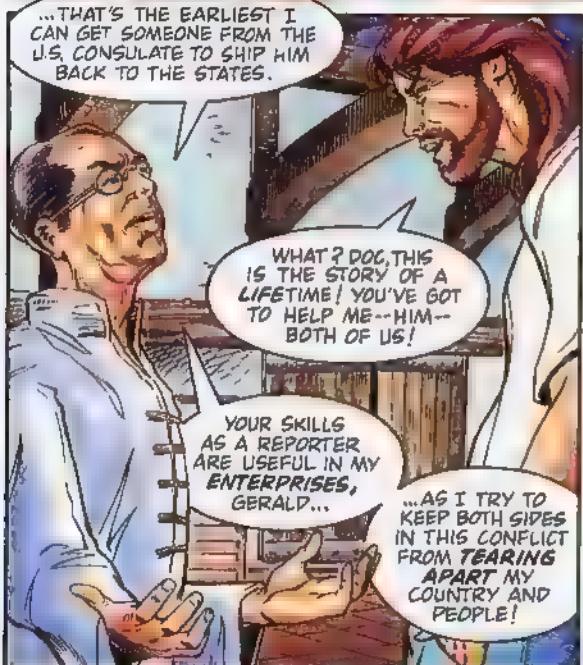
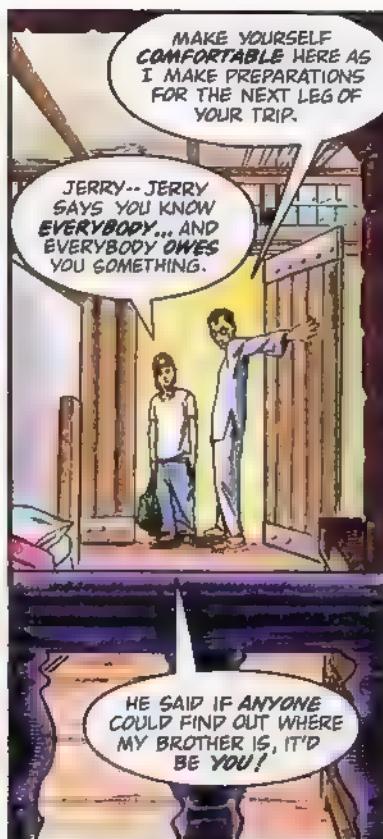


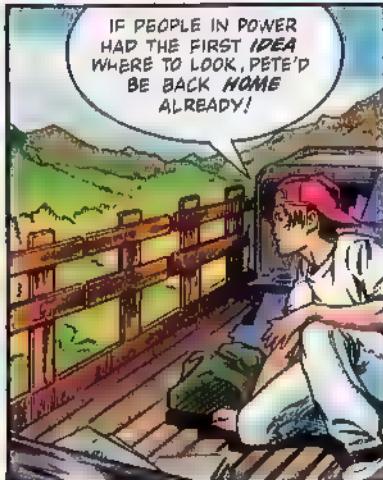
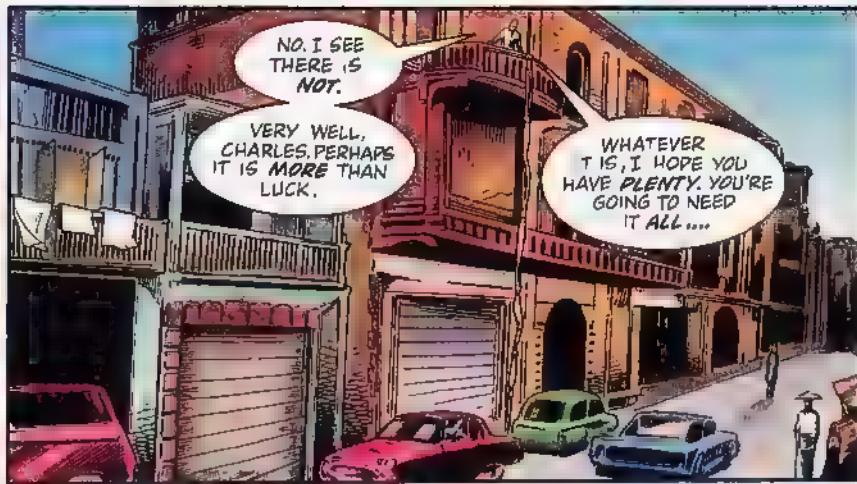












CHARLES HEARS THE STRANGE LANGUAGE AGAIN RISING AND FALLING...

...HISsing WHISPERS THAT CREEP UP HIS SPINE.

HE DOESN'T HAVE TO KNOW THE WORDS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR MESSAGE OF FEAR AND SUSPICION.

PETER. PEE.TER. SMI-THH, PETER SMITH! THE PICTURE... LOOK AT THE--

LOOK AT ME. I SOUND LIKE THAT STUTTERING KID IN MRS. DERAGON'S CLASS....

MR. KISSINGER CALLED TO THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT.

OH BUT CAPTAIN SO MUCH MORE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH A WH SPER.

HOW NICE... PERHAPS I'LL HAVE OCCASION TO EXPLORE THE EXTENT OF THOSE THANKS SOMEDAY SOON.

NOT AT THE MOMENT... WELL, ACTUALLY, THERE IS SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN ON MY MIND.

ANYTHING ELSE, DOCTOR?

IT'S NOT A PRIORITY, TRUNG, BUT PUT A WORD TO OUR PEOPLE.

SEE WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY ABOUT AN AMERICAN M.I.A. OR P.O.W. HIS NAME IS PETER SMITH....

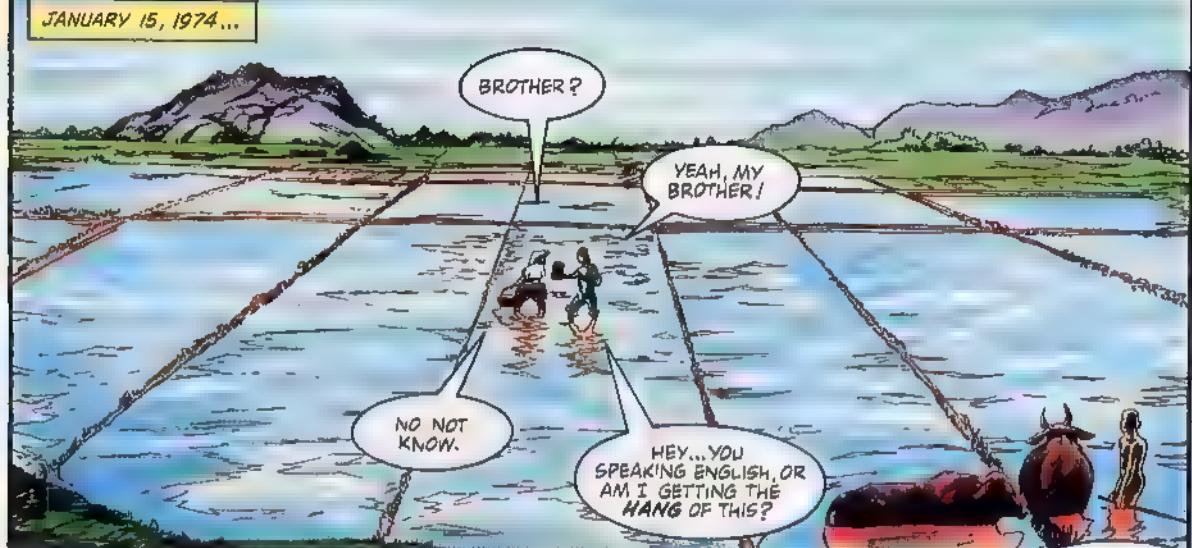
NOVEMBER 2 ...

YOU PULL A MEAN SET OF STRINGS, NGUYEN! MY OWN BOYS TOLD ME A MONTH ON THEM MEDICAL SUPPLIES!

YOUR GRATITUDE IS A TREMENDOUS REWARD, CAPTAIN HALLIWELL.

KEEP THAT IN MIND, DOC -- YOU EVER NEED A FAVOR, YOU HOLLER!

JANUARY 15, 1974...



APRIL 3...



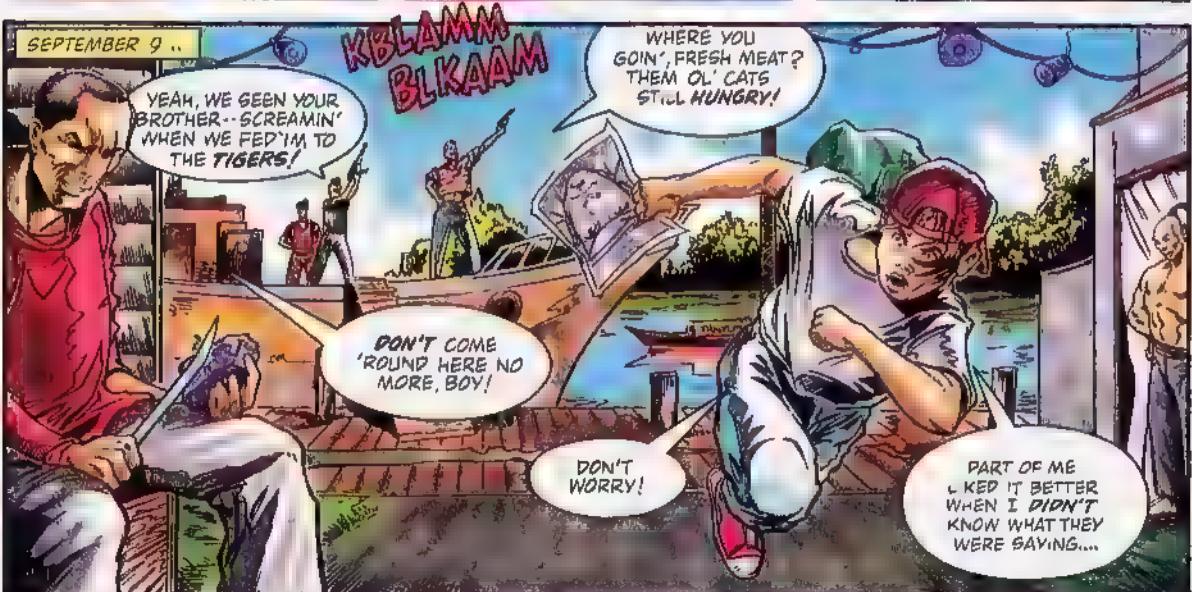
SOME INTERESTING NEWS, DOCTOR...



OUR PEOPLE REPORTED THE OLDER BROTHER ALIVE -- THEY'RE FINDING OUT WHERE! AND THE LITTLE ONE'S LUCK CONTINUES TO HOLD!



SEPTEMBER 9...



OCTOBER 25...

YOU EVER GIVE  
ANY THOUGHT TO  
THAT KID, DOC?

"KIP, " GERALD?  
COULD YOU BE A LITTLE  
MORE VAGUE?

'BOUT A YEAR AGO.  
THE ONE LOOKING FOR HIS *BROTHER*.  
YOU SPOOKED HIM INTO RUNNING  
OFF WITH MY STORY.

HMM, YOUNG  
MASTER SMITH,

I'D SAY  
BLUFFING'S MORE  
SUITED TO POKER  
THAN CHESS.

CHECK.

WHAT WOULD YOU  
SAY IF I TOLD YOU  
I'D BEEN KEEPING  
INCREASINGLY CLOSE  
TABS ON THE BOY...

... AND THAT HE  
HAS NOT ONLY SURVIVED,  
BUT MADE *PROGRESS* IN  
HIS *UNDERTAKING*?

LOOKING BACK  
I MUST ADMIT  
TO REGRETTING  
MY TREATMENT  
OF THE CHILD.

HIS VENTURE  
WAS PURE, AND  
DESERVED TO BE  
REWARDED IN  
TURN.

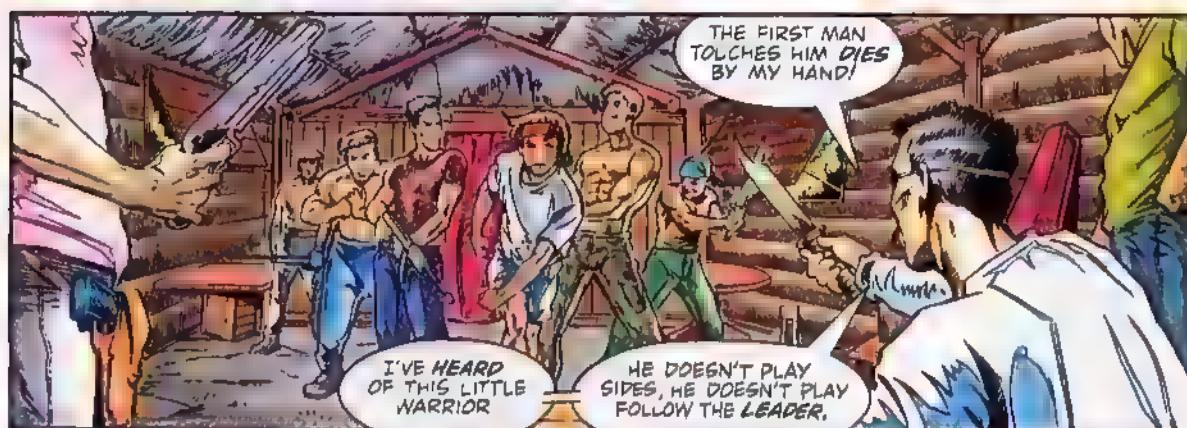
NOW YOU COME  
AROUND, AFTER MY  
HEADLINE'S LONG SINCE  
GOTTEN INTIMATE WITH  
A BOLING BETTY  
MINE!

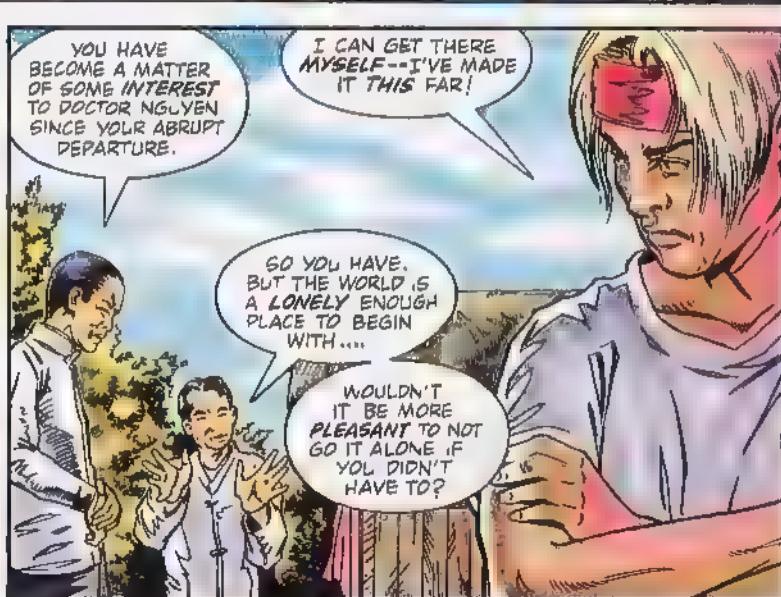
DO NOT BE SO  
CERTAIN OF MR.  
SMITH'S FATE,  
GERALD.

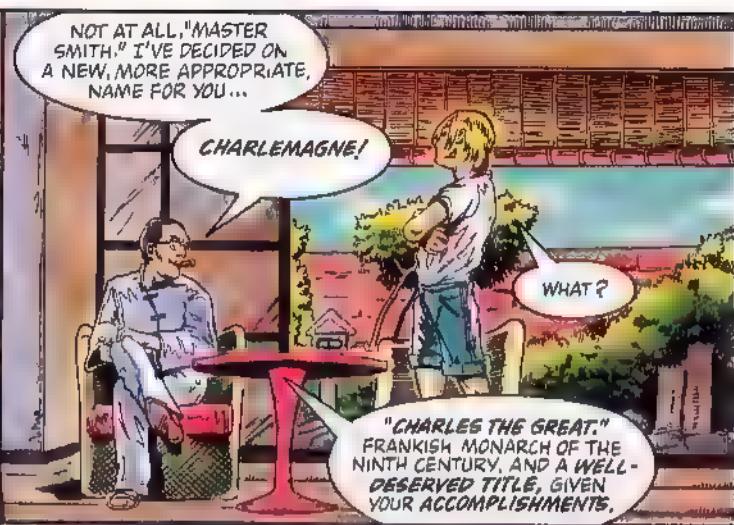
OH.  
CHECKMATE.



MARCH 18 975







THAT EVENING...

HER NAME IS LE XUAN.  
LIKE SO MANY HERE, HER  
LIFE HAS BEEN TOUCHED  
BY DOC NGUYEN...

BUT LE XUAN'S COMMON  
GROUND WITH THE OTHER  
PARTYGOERS ENDS THERE.  
THEIR TALK AND POSTURING  
IS THE STUFF OF ADULTS...  
POLITICS, RELIGION...

... AND THE YOUNG LADY  
NEEDS SOMETHING ELSE  
TO CATCH HER INTEREST.



I WONDER IF I  
WOULD HAVE HAD THAT  
WILL... IF... YOU SEE, MY  
THREE BROTHERS...

-- TAN AND NGO IN THE  
ARVN, PHAN WHO JOINED THE  
VC -- WERE KILLED. WE SAW  
THE BODIES... WHAT WAS LEFT.  
THERE WAS NO DOUBT

AND I'M  
STANDING HERE  
THINKING JUST ABOUT  
MYSELF! I'M... I'M  
SORRY FOR YOU.  
FOR THEM.

YES... YOUR SEARCH  
FOR YOUR BROTHER!  
SO FOCUSED... SO  
DEDICATED!

DON'T BE. I'VE  
GRIEVED FOR THEIR  
DEATHS...

NOW IT'S  
TIME TO TURN  
TO WHAT I CAN  
BRING TO LIFE.

I WISH I COULD  
LOOK AT THINGS AS...  
AS POSITIVE.

YOU DO, THAT  
STRENGTH INSIDE...  
THAT SPIRIT SENT YOU  
AFTER YOUR PETER

WHEN YOU'VE FOUND HIM,  
YOU CAN TURN IT TOWARD OTHER  
THINGS. YOU CAN...

...FIND THE  
WRONGS...

AND MAKE  
THEM RIGHT.

FIRST LIGHT...

THIS IS, UH,  
"SPECIAL DELIVERY."  
TELL CAPTAIN HALLIWELL  
WE'VE GOT "THE  
SHIPMENT."

I'M LOOKING  
FORWARD TO MEETING  
YOUR BROTHER!

KEEP THE  
BUN REU WARM,  
DOC -- AND  
THANKS!

HOLD TIGHT,  
KID...

"... YOUR UNCLE SAM RUNS ONE  
MOTHER OF A ROLLER COASTER!"

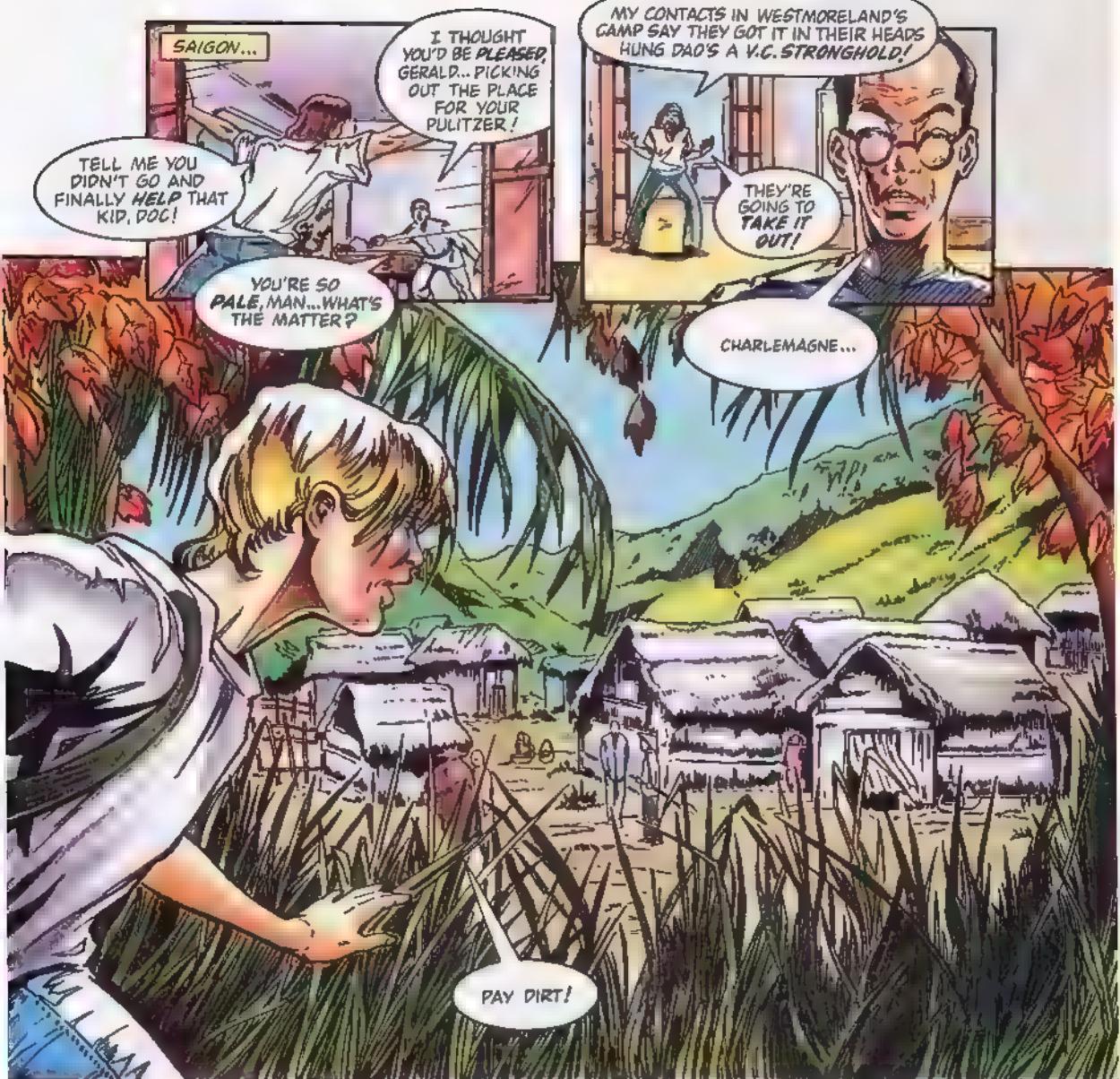
HOURS LATER...

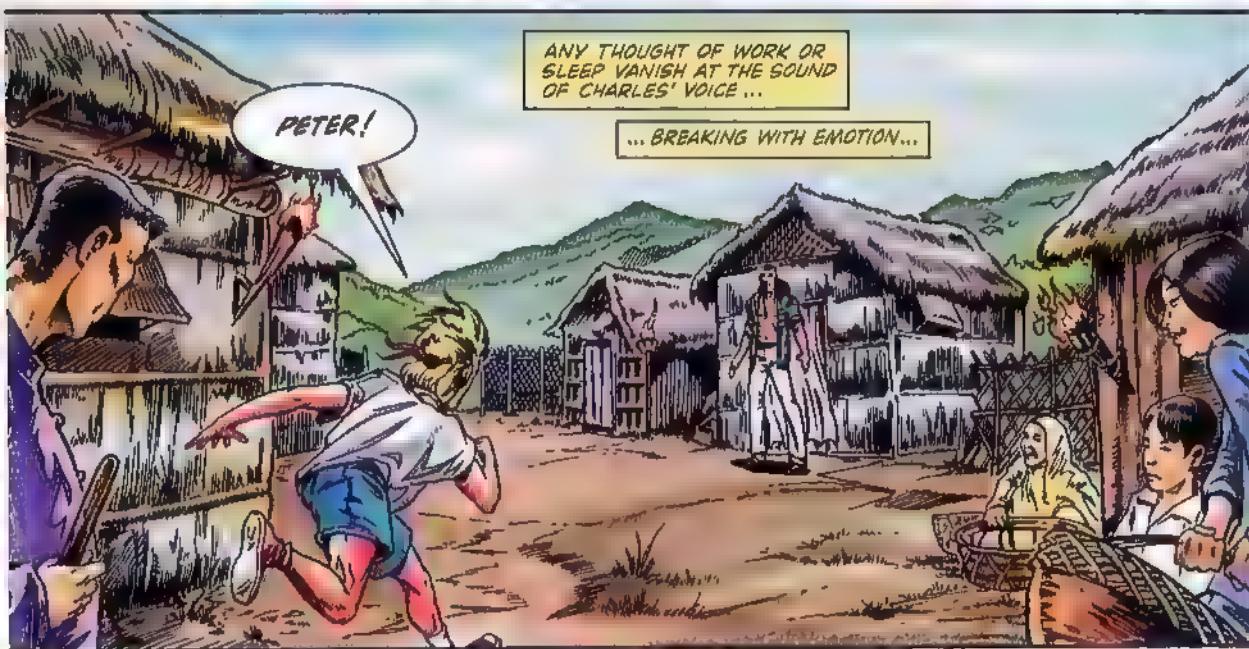
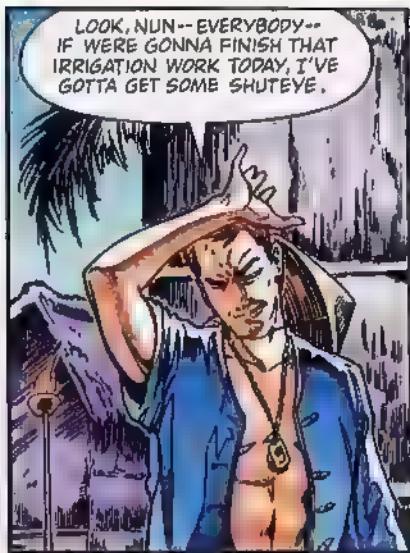
CLOSING ON THE  
CAMBODIAN BORDER.

SAM, M'MAN, I'M  
SO SHORT I CAN TASTE  
IT. THAT MEANS I DON'T  
ASK THOSE KINDA  
QUESTIONS!

THANKS, "UNCLE."  
LEMME KNOW WHEN  
YOU OPEN A MERRY-  
GO-ROUND!

BOBBY, WHATTA  
WE DOIN' DROPPIN' A  
CIVILIAN KID IN THE  
MIDDLE OF A  
WAR ZONE?





AND A MOMENT  
IS ALL THEY'LL  
EVER HAVE....

THE NATIVES  
APPEAR RESTLESS,  
GROUP LEADER.

FWROOSH

BRAKA

BRAKA

THEN LET'S GIVE  
'EM SOME O' THAT  
ETERNAL REST!

UH, ROGER  
THAT, GROUP  
LEADER.

TRAKOON

THE BROTHERS  
TRY DESPERATELY  
TO HOLD ON ...



... JUST WAITING TO GO UP IN SMOKE.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING COME DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS...

... COURTESY A LETHAL LITTLE PACKAGE MARKED 'MADE IN AMERICA.'

NO...

HE'S RABBETING!



--I FOUND YOU I KNEW WHERE TO LOOK I--

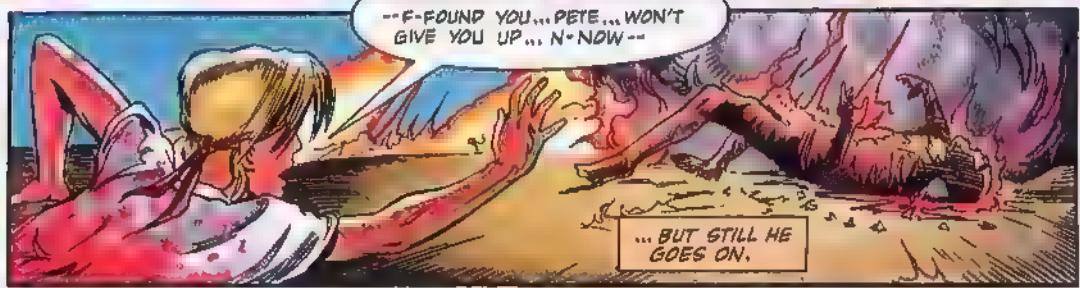
TH-TH-TH-THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

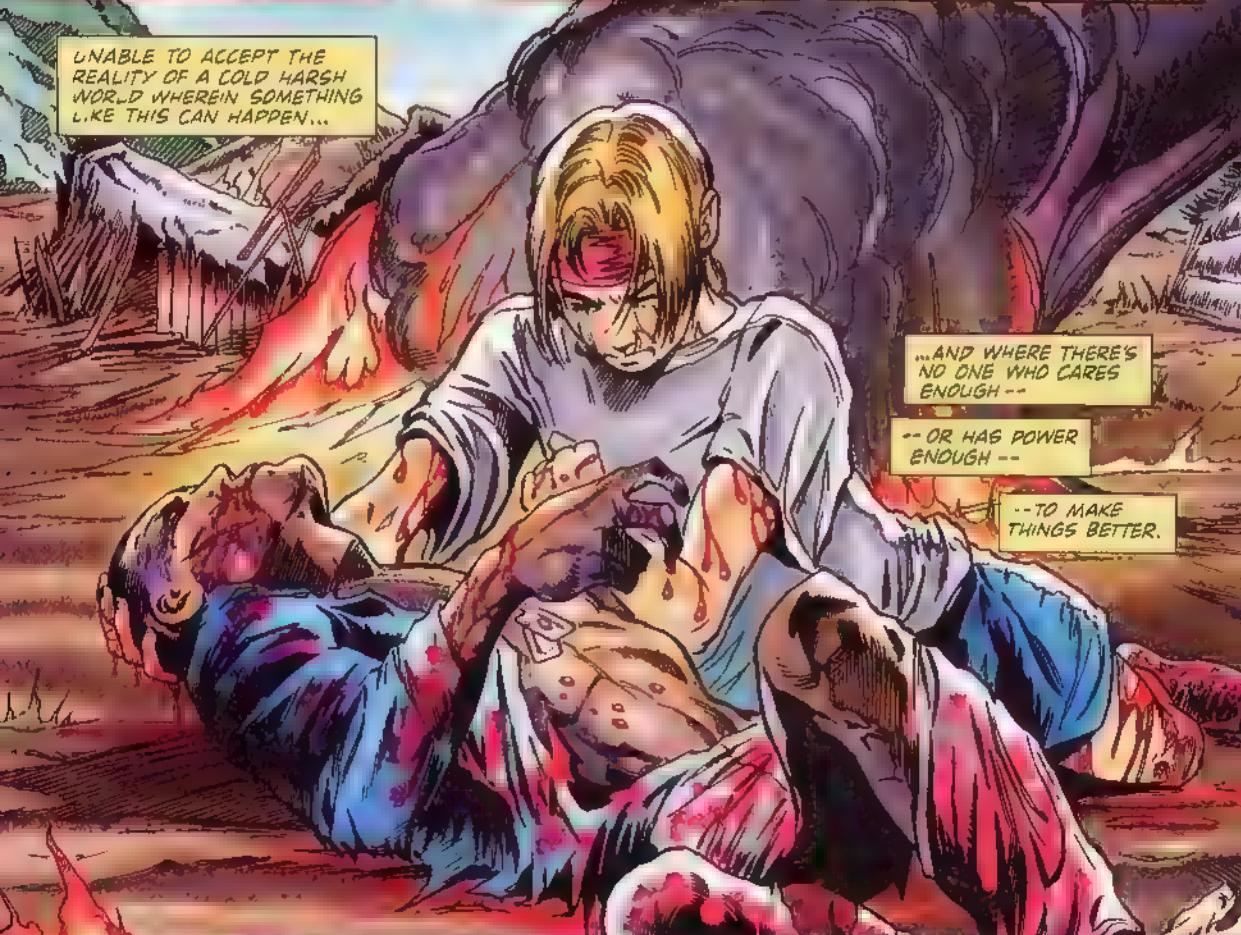


BULLETS THE SIZE OF RAILROAD SPIKES TEAR INTO A YOUNG BOY'S BODY...

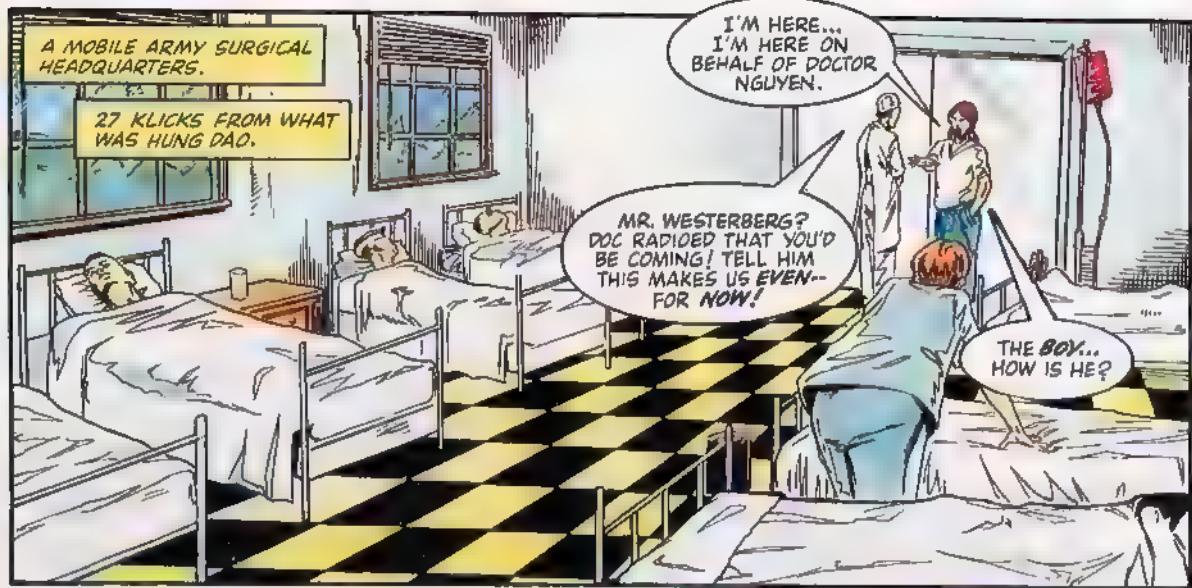
--F-FOUND YOU...PETE...WON'T GIVE YOU UP...N-NOW--

...BUT STILL HE GOES ON.

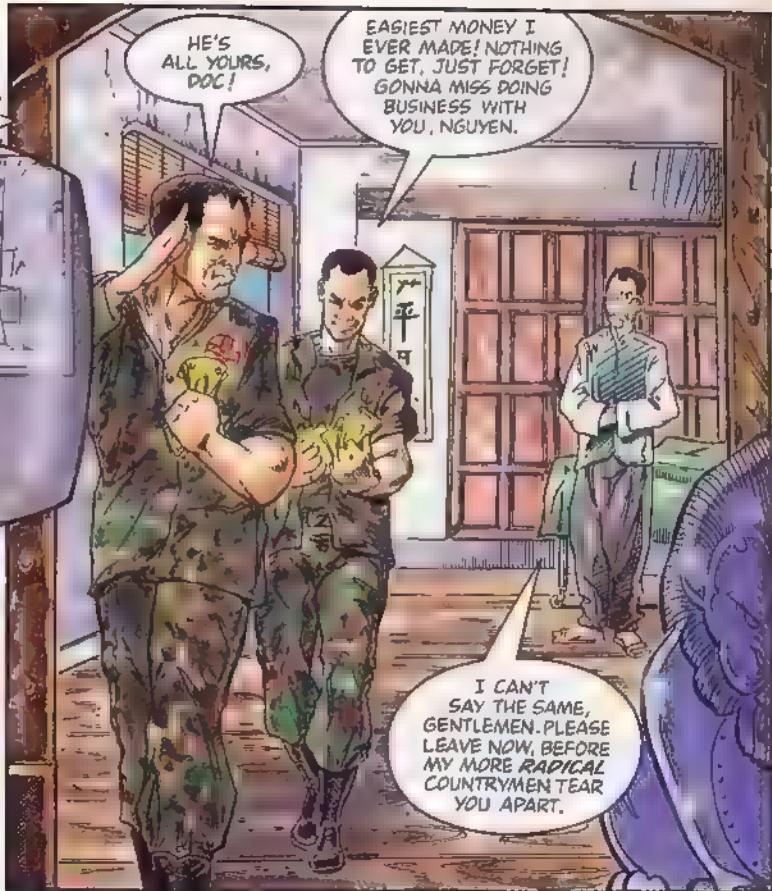
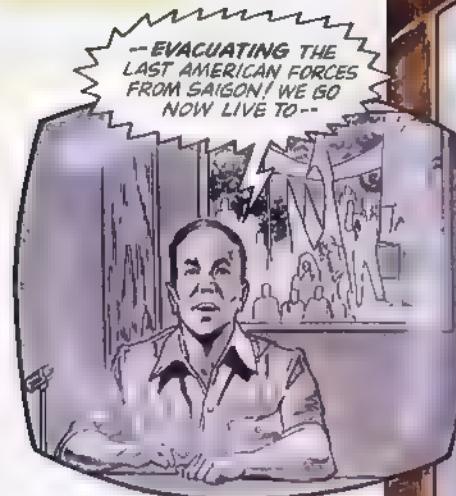


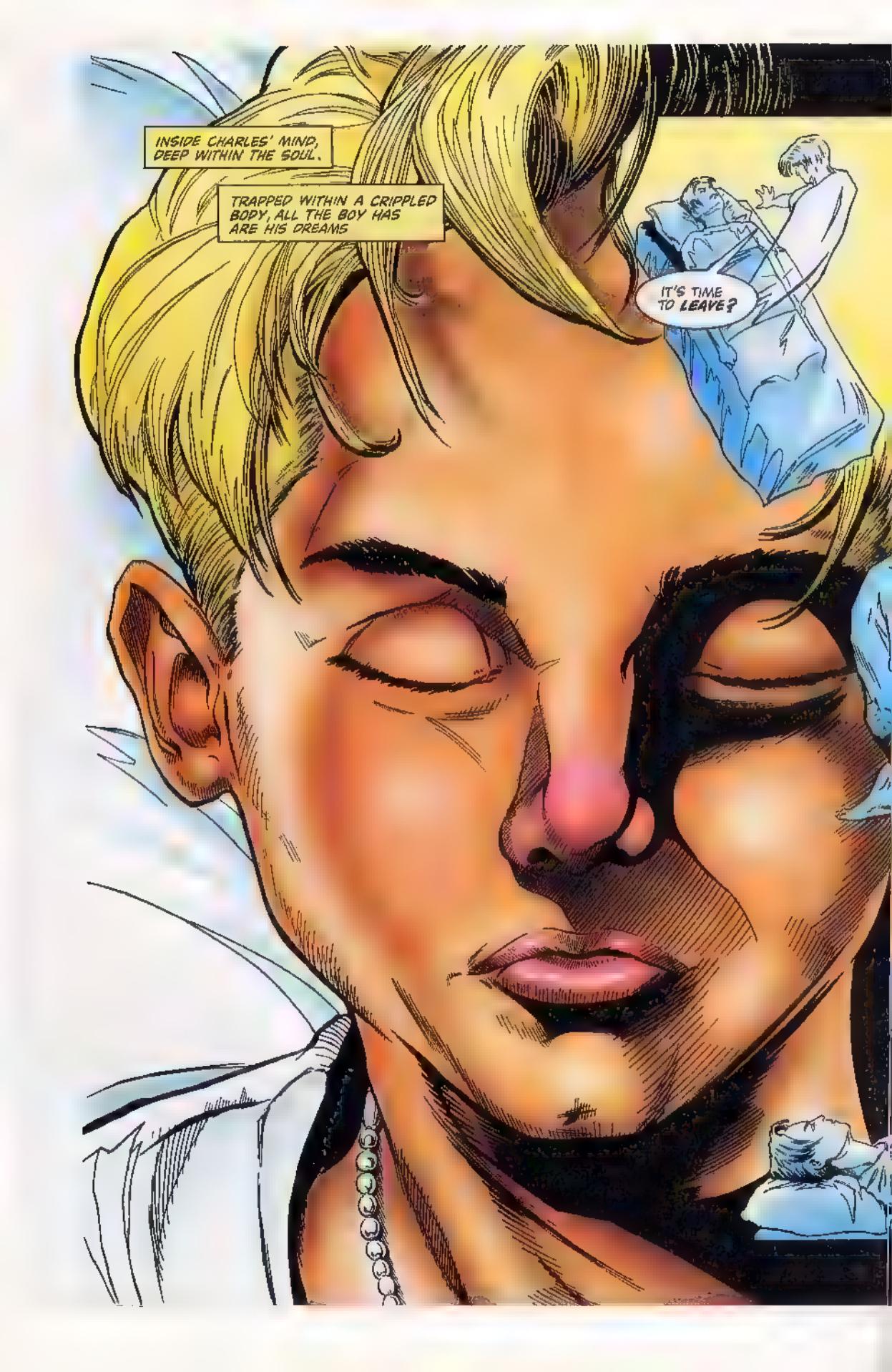






APRIL 29, 1975...

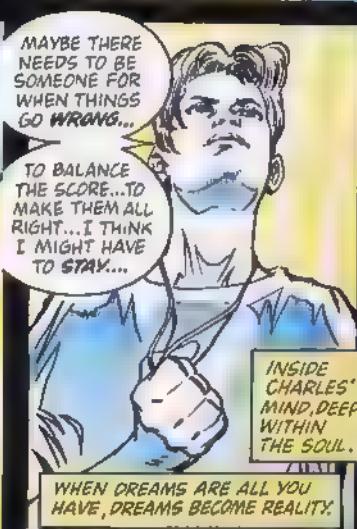




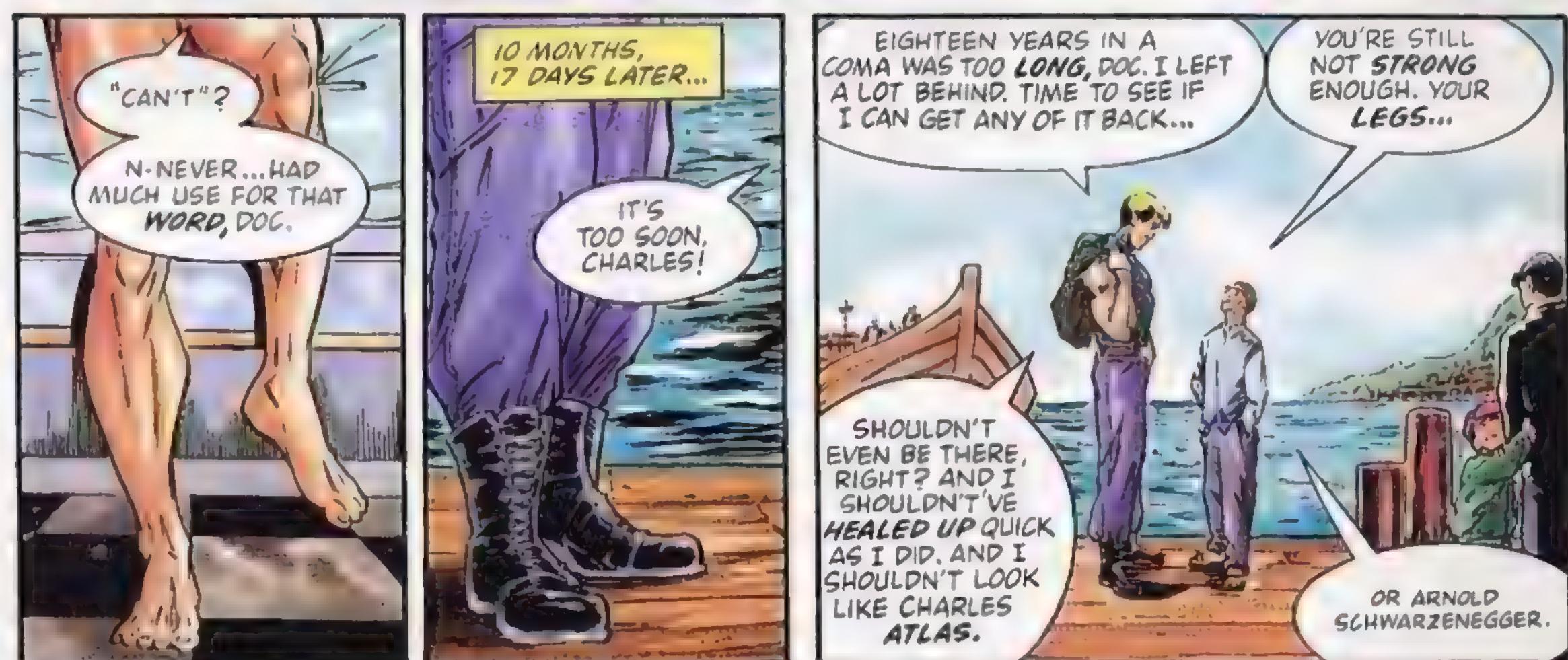
INSIDE CHARLES' MIND,  
DEEP WITHIN THE SOUL.

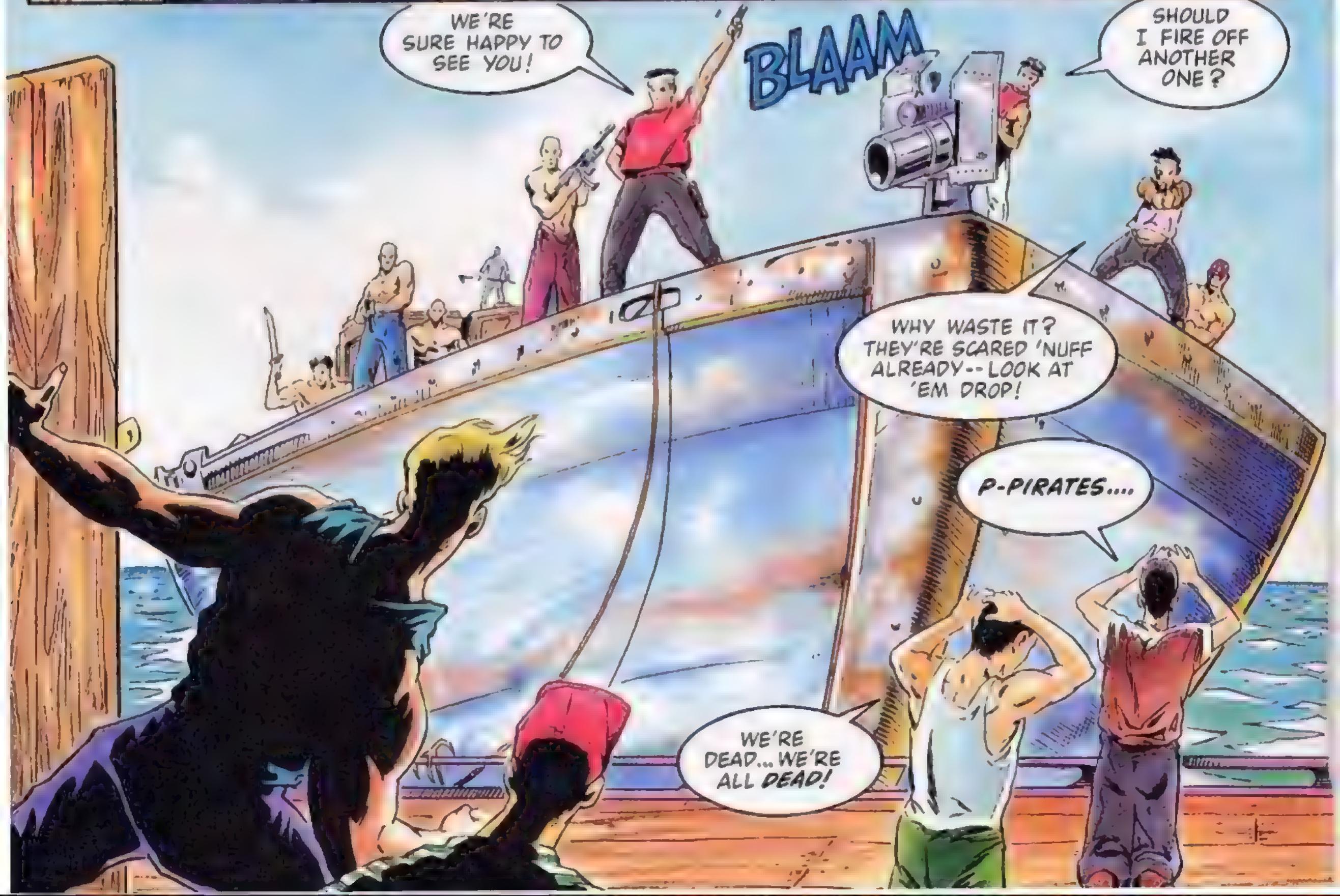
TRAPPED WITHIN A CRIPPLED  
BODY, ALL THE BOY HAS  
ARE HIS DREAMS

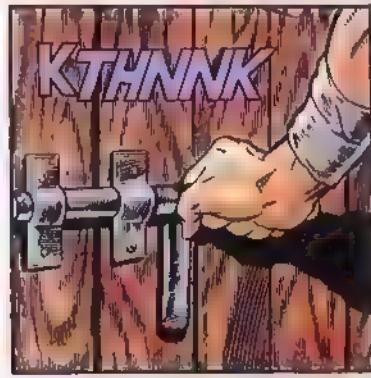
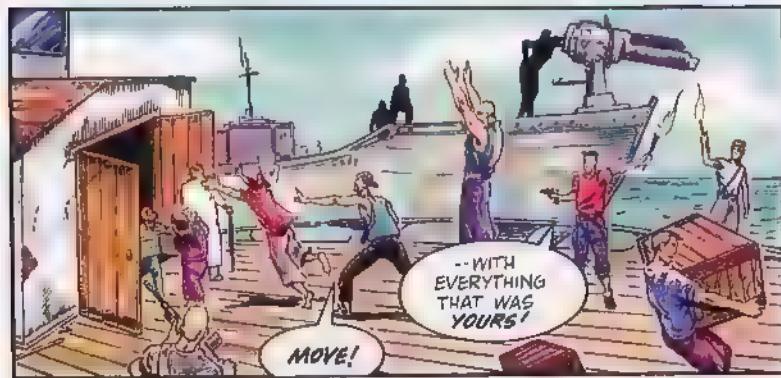
IT'S TIME  
TO LEAVE?

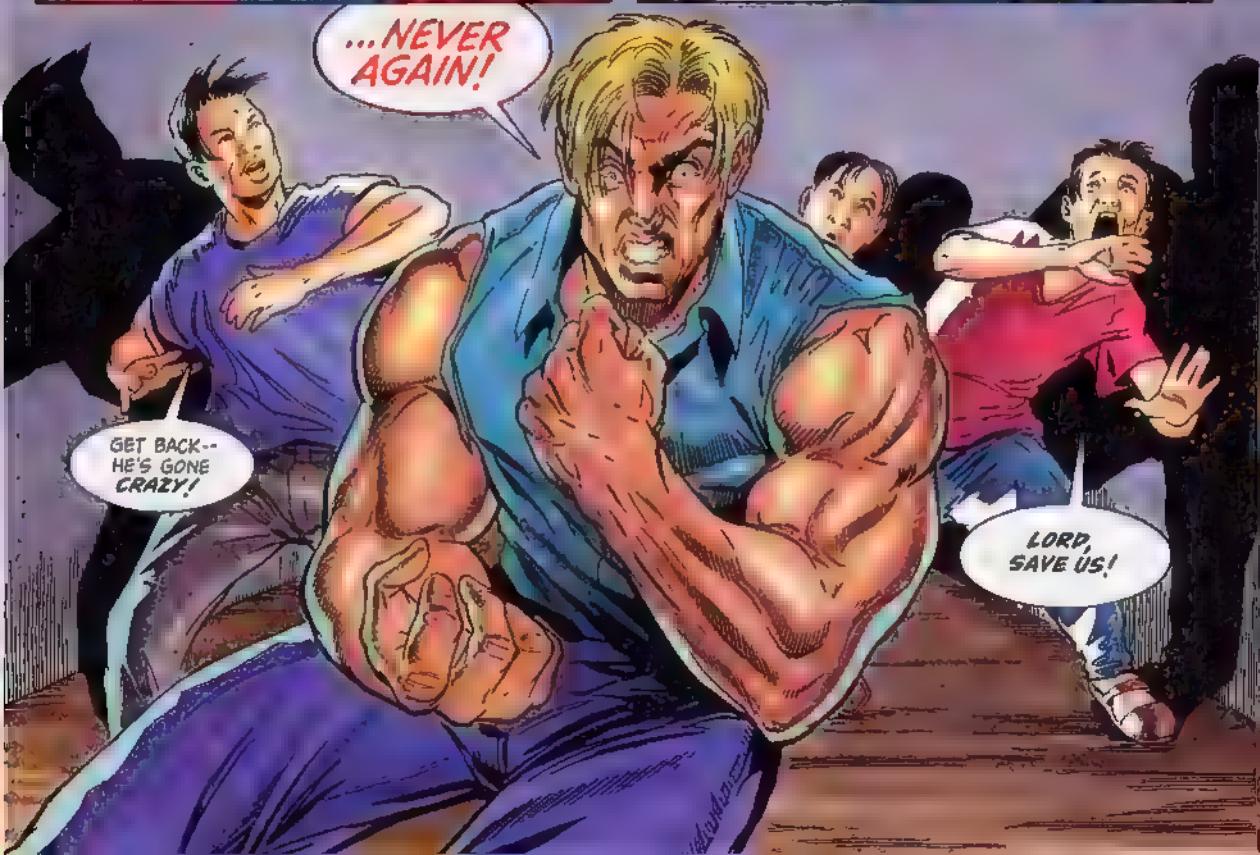
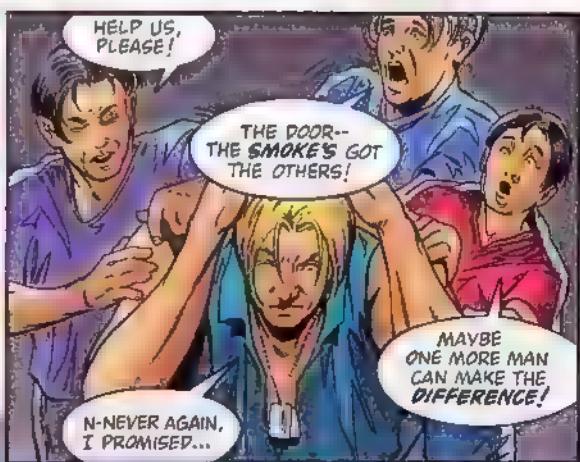












THUNDER AND  
LIGHTNING, AGAIN.

BUT NOW THEY  
EXPLODE ON THE SIDE  
OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

TRAKOON



STAY THERE!



LIKE  
WE'VE GOT A  
CHOICE?

SPLOOOSH







